



November 2025

FOSTER PARENT SHOUT OUT!

Dear Foster Parents,

Throughout my entire career I have worked with foster parents and have learned that you are the most courageous and giving people who walk this planet. You open your front door to children who have been through unimaginable things that many of us cannot comprehend, and you do it with care, concern and a smile.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm reminded of the many blessings that you bring to our children who need you! On behalf of The Baby Fold, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the love, patience, and compassion you show to the children in your care.

Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate family, togetherness, and the joy of giving. As foster parents, you embody that spirit of the season every single day, and I'm aware that some days are more difficult than others. Your generosity creates not just a home, but a place of healing and hope. You are helping to shape brighter futures and create meaningful change, one child at a time.

This Thanksgiving, we thank you for being an essential part of The Baby Fold and for the countless ways you show up every day for the lives of those around you. May your home be filled with warmth, laughter, and the comfort of knowing how deeply you are appreciated.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Clete Winkelmann
President and CEO

THE FESTIVAL OF TREES-NOVEMBER 21-22, 2025

The Baby Fold's Festival of Trees is central Illinois' premier holiday extravaganza to kick-off the holidays and bless local children! At the Interstate Center you can expect a gorgeous display of Christmas trees, festive wreaths, gingerbread creations, holiday centerpieces and more! Santa Claus will be on-site every day to delight the children and each will enjoy a take-home holiday craft bag. Stroll through Gingerbread Village and take in the alluring scent of gingerbread and icing from over 100 charming creations! Sip on hot cocoa while admiring an Enchanted Forest filled with one of the largest displays of Christmas trees around! Visit the coffee, cookie, and bake shops for a tasty treat! For an extra cost, your family can enjoy a delicious meal and live holiday entertainment during our Avanti's Family Night! And don't forget to place your best bids on over 600 hand-crafted holiday decorations in an online auction that blesses local children served by The Baby Fold!



Please RSVP by December 6th
with your licensing worker or
through the Facebook invite for



THE BABY FOLD'S

FOSTER CARE

DONUTS

With Santa

Bring your children for a delightful morning filled with joy and wonder. Join us for Donuts with Santa, where children can share their holiday wishes, enjoy some delicious donuts, and revel in the magic of the season!



Saturday, December 6th 9-11am



**1701 W Market St
Bloomington, IL 61701**



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Remember to join The Baby Fold's Foster Care Facebook Group

A private Group just for you Foster Parents to be able to join and see all of our upcoming events and trainings as well. Any questions please feel free to reach out Use the link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/thebabyfoldfostercare>



ABC's of Foster Parenting

We will be continuing an online series of virtual meetings that will outline the ins and outs of foster care. **Do you have friends or know anyone that would be interested in becoming a foster parent?** Send them the link to these meetings, and we will be

available to answer any question they may have about the program. The next

Meeting is November 6th, 2025 from 12pm to 1pm and 6pm to 7pm. Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2y95ba6h> Meeting ID: 253 293 577 156 1 Passcode: F5jB2dk6

Don't forget about our Referral Incentive Program!

If you refer a family for licensure that successfully becomes licensed, with a child placed in the home, you will be rewarded \$150! Referred families must identify you within the first 3 days of the licensing process. Please reach out to your licensing worker if you have any questions or concerns.

SIDE BY SIDE MINISTRIES

This ministry exists to engage the church & local community in consistent loving support of families involved in foster care by providing access to physical, relational, & spiritual resources. For more information, send an email to: sidebyside1712@gmail.com

DADS SHARPEN DADS

A safe place for dads to share their unique challenges, as well as education and support for each other to be their very best. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:15pm. For more info, email Ken at Ksummers@thebabyfold.org for more information

WEDNESDAY NOON GROUP

Provides education and support related to parenting, trauma, and self-care within the context of adoption and foster care. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Email Melissa at MLEGENDRE@thebabyfold.org for more information.

GRANDPARENT CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Fostering a grandchild? This group is for you! Meets once a month at Community Care, located at 3601 General Electric Rd. Suite #2 Bloomington, IL 61704. Caregivers & children are able to meet together to do activities, crafts, share a meal, and get acquainted. If you would like more information, please call Angie Raymer at 309-661-6400.

ROOTS & ROUTINES: HAIR CARE BASICS FOR TEXTURED HAIR

Date: November 8th

Time: 11:30-1:00pm

Facilitator:

Authrine T.K. Singleton

Empowering caregivers with confidence & skills

This hands-on training is designed to support families in caring for highly textured hair with love, respect, and confidence.



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Shampoo & conditioning techniques
- Detangling with care
- Moisture Matters
- Preparing hair for styling

